



JOSEPH GOEBBELS

Johne

Early Life

- Born in Rheydt, Germany on October 29, 1897.
- His short stature and crippled foot would torment him throughout his life.
- His father was a subordinate office worker.



Education and Early Career

- His disfigured foot prevented him from joining the German army in WWI.
- Received a doctorate from Heidelberg University in 1922.
- He then attempted to pursue a career in literature.
- Wrote novels, plays, and poems, but had difficulty finding publishers who would accept his work.



Rise to Power

- Failing as a writer and afraid of being considered a bourgeois intellectual, Goebbels joined the Nazi party in 1924.
- He immediately utilized his intellectual powers to create propaganda and control enemy publications.
- Although he was not entirely liked by other party leaders, but his friendship with Hitler provided opportunities for advancement and he became the party's chief propagandist.

The Master Propagandist

- As the Nazis' Minister of Propaganda, Goebbels was responsible for managing projects to produce pro-Nazi films, radio programs, books, and advertisements.
- He was also the editor of a number of Nazi newspapers.



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Foto: Sandau, 1942

Kristallnacht

- Goebbels was responsible for ordering the Kristallnacht massacre on November 9, 1938.



The Beginning of the End

- Goebbels was the first to acknowledge the inevitable defeat of Germany after the fall of Stalingrad in 1943.
- However, despite this failure, German morale persisted with cleverly reassuring propaganda from Goebbels.



The End of the Third Reich

- As Russian troops approached Berlin, Goebbels retreated into Hitler's subterranean bunker.
- When Hitler committed suicide on April 30, Goebbels became the ruler of Germany.
- However, this would not last.



Death

- The next day, Goebbels, his wife, and their six children committed suicide. Their bodies were burned outside the Führerbunker and discovered by Soviet troops several days afterward.



References

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